

THE CHAMPION

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No. 39

THE RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED AT ALVA BY LEGISLATORS AND EDITORS.

ALVA, FLA., Sept. 1906. The Honorable Philip Isaacs, President, and Members of the Fort Myers Board of Trade.

GENTLEMEN: In meeting called at this point, the Mayor of the State of Florida, together with members of the legislature, the citizens of the members of the Fort Myers Board of Trade and their invited guests, the Florida state press, and members of Lee county, called to by Hon. Stephen Melton, member of the house of representatives from Duval county, Senator K. Jackson, of Citrus county, elected chairman and A. F. Loring, of Tampa, (Hillsborough county), secretary.

The purpose and object of this meeting was to give expression to observations of all those persons comprising the Everglades Drainage Inspection party under the provision and special invitation in direction of the Fort Myers Board of Trade, who made the trip from Fort Myers to Lake Okechobee on September 18 and 1906, up and through the Caloosahatchee river, Lake Flirt, Bonnett and the Disston canals, creating, as it were, a state committee whose duty it should be to the citizens of Florida the whole world an accurate picture as regards the conditions, possibilities and feasibility of the drainage of the Everglades beginning at Lake Okechobee, through the system of canals to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. This committee, after diligent and faithful observation, beg to report as follows:

First. We find every evidence of serious congestion and damaging flow of the Caloosahatchee during the rainy season, and find that heavy damage is therefrom to planters and owners of citrus fruits in the Caloosahatchee Valley.

Second. We also find that a common desire prevails among property-owners along the banks of the Caloosahatchee river from Fort Myers to Lake Okechobee that the chief executive of the state put into execution his election promises, and drain the Everglades at the earliest possible moment.

Third. We further find that the fountain head of all this misery—Lake Okechobee—is at a level more than twenty-one feet above the sea level, making its drainage into the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico, to the extent of four feet or more, or no obstruction being found.

Fourth. We further find that the plans fathered and fostered by the Chief Executive, N. B. Broward, are feasible and practicable, and that we do unanimously endorse the resolutions passed and tendered to this meeting, and we further instruct our duly elected chairman and secretary to affix their signatures to this document, and to certify to its authority and truthfulness.

W. K. JACKSON, Chairman.
A. F. LORING, Secretary.

ALVA, FLA., Sept. 19, 1906.

Whereas, The Board of Trade of Fort Myers, Fla., in its wisdom and generosity has extended invitations to His Excellency, Gov. N. B. Broward and his staff, together with the members of the senate and house of representatives of the State of Florida, and the members of the state press, to join in a personal inspection of the actual conditions pertaining to the drainage of the Everglades; and

Whereas, The said Board of Trade of Ft. Myers, Fla., has provided a means of conveyance and all necessary accommodations and appurtenances facilitating a thorough inspection and conception of the same; and

Whereas, A large and representative delegation of state senators and representatives of the state legislature, members of the state press, together with the Fort Myers Board of Trade and many civilians from various parts of the state of Florida did make a tour of personal inspection of the Everglades from Fort Myers to Lake Okechobee, traversing its only and exclusive drainage artery—the Caloosahatchee river—thru Lake Hocpochee, Bonnet Lake and the system of waterways known as the Disston canals; and

Whereas, The overflow and damage to planters and growers along the lower Caloosahatchee river was visible, and as apparent to the novice as to the resident of the Caloosahatchee valley, and

Whereas, Some remedy is demanded by residents, planters and land owners from His Excellency, N. B. Broward, governor of the State of Florida; and

Whereas, To our minds, a system of canals from Lake Okechobee to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico is feasible and practicable; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the invited guests of the Fort Myers Board of Trade, state senators and representatives of the State of Florida, the state press present, and civilians—return our sincere thanks to the Board of Trade of Fort Myers, and especially to the officers and managers of the steamboat line and all the citizens of Lee county, and especially to the good ladies and citizens of Alva, Fla., for their hearty welcome and magnificent entertainment and more especially to His Excellency, Governor N. B. Broward, for his personal attendance, and ask the co-operation and support of every voter of the State of Florida in the inauguration and adoption of the project that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Gulf of Mexico, the waters of which have both the east and west coast of our peninsular.

The Race War.

The Race War in Atlanta precipitated by several attempted assaults by negroes on white women, has already led to a dozen or more deaths, at least three of them being white officers who were attempting to arrest negroes. Altho the authorities are now confident that they now have the situation well in hand it is only a smoldering volcano ready to again burst forth at the least provocation.

Governor Jelks, speaking of the race riot says:

"The lynching of any person for whatever crime is inexcusable anywhere—it is a defiance of orderly government; but the killing of innocent people under any provocation is infinitely more horrible, and yet innocent people are likely to die when a mob's terrible lust is once aroused."

FRUIT GROWERS

UNION. ADJOURNED MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 6.

An adjourned meeting of growers is set for Saturday, October 6th at 11 a. m. at the court house. At the last meeting a diversity of opinion developed as to the purposes of organization, some being in favor of organizing themselves into a co-operative association for the purpose of building packing houses and handling upon a commission basis the crop upon the lines of the California Fruit Growers Association which operated so extensively two years ago, handling two-thirds of the entire crop of California.

The majority, however, preferred an organization on the lines of the Cotton Growers Association, which has done so much for that industry by gathering reliable statistics of the crop and advising its membership as to the natural price that should be obtained for the crop; and also gathering such other information as might be of service to the industry.

The plan is to form local unions in the various neighborhoods that could meet monthly and send in crop reports as gathered at those meetings, to the general secretary; from these reports the secretary could compile an estimate and advise the secretaries of the sub-unions, who could in turn disseminate the information among the members. Necessarily the first year will be the most expensive to get a reliable estimate, as some of the counties will have to be visited to get the information. Another year many of the counties will follow our move and form unions from which these estimates can be obtained without cost.

The membership fee set at \$1.00 seemed to be the main stumbling block, out of about 100 people present only fourteen enrolled, many would have joined had the fee been less, and at the next meeting this will be re-considered.

The Florida East Coast, the Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Air Line Railroads have been requested to inform the Union as to the number of boxes of oranges handled by each last year and an estimate of the crop from all stations that shipped last year. If they comply with the request, as they should, we will have in hand as reliable an estimate as we can get this year.

If the growers of the county would turn out and assist in this movement as they should a membership fee of twenty-five cents would be enough to pay the time of a stenographer to do the correspondence of the Union, and among its membership then would be found persons who could give the names of reliable persons in every orange growing county in the state who would be willing to aid the movement by giving crop reports of their counties, thus, with a small outlay this information could be gathered year by year and tabulated; information as to tree pests and diseases and their treatment would warrant the expenditure of some money, as well as methods of cultivation and fertilizing. While the subject is agitated is the time to take action and perfect a permanent organi-

zation. The permanent officers will be elected at the next meeting to be held at the court house, Saturday, October 6 at 11 a. m., and the future course of the Union will be definitely settled. The organization cannot live and accomplish work on wind and it is up to you growers to meet and select a set of officers that will do something; if the Union does not meet your approval you cannot more effectually kill it than by staying at home and robbing it of your assistance. Every grower of fruit in Florida is vitally effected.

ED SCOTT, Secretary.

Some Business Improvements.

Levi McCullers and Harry Cross have opened a drug store and news stand in the Post Office building in Perry Brown's former store room. They are splendidly located and Harry is one of the most competent druggists in the State. They have many friends who will wish the new firm success.

Gore & Scott are now moved in to their new concrete building and have got their goods on the shelves and are as comfortably and conveniently located as any mercantile firm in the city. While in New York Mr. Gore selected a handsome line of dress goods in the new plaids that are so fashionable, as well as many varieties of linen and cotton dress materials. He is offering several pieces of apron gingham at 5 cents a yard that will please the ladies. Shoes and fancy groceries occupy one side of the store, while in the rear is a warehouse in which are the hay and feed stuffs as well as the crockery, tinware and trunks. The office of the firm has indulged in a handsome new safe and everything throughout is up to date.

F. Morqus and his helpers are doing their best to get straightened up ready for the new Christmas goods that are ordered and will be here soon. Mr. Morqus has three large, well lighted rooms in his new building, all on the ground floor, and when he gets things in shape will have a saddlery, a shoe department and one devoted to jewelry, Christmas goods, etc. The tiling for floors and sidewalk that he has made is a very nice idea that will be more appreciated as one realizes how easy such floors are kept clean and free from dust. Mr. Morqus always handles a fine line of silverware and china for the Christmas trade.

Mrs. C. H. Smith's new hats, pattern hats and all, have arrived and are now being opened. She has also received this week, a choice selection of dress goods for best and common wear. The gingham she buys for her trade retain their colors when laundered. Her customers only need to be told that Mrs. Smith's goods have arrived to flock to her counters sure of finding fine dress goods of fashionable weaves and materials and durable gingham and calicoes.

Ladies Friday Musicales.

The Ladies Friday Musicales Club will meet with Mrs. A. E. Bennett Friday afternoon, Oct. 2, at four o'clock. Every member is earnestly requested to be present.

Mrs. J. N. Hollingsworth, President.

The past few days has shown this part of Florida some unsettled weather.

ABOUT FOOT ROT

A FEW IDEAS ABOUT ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS.

The idea has gained currency that the sour orange stock is the only stock that is entirely immune from "foot rot." We have had no experience with it and don't want any.

A few days since we were talking with a prominent orange grower and he stated that in his opinion that the theory of sour stock being immune was exploded. For he had a few old buds in his grove on sour stock that now were showing all the signs of incipient foot rot. Besides a lot of sweet trees also in the incipient stages of foot rot.

Now comes some one and says that one grower who has lost the most of his grove by foot rot that the said grower has a number of old bearing grape fruit trees in the grove. That the grape fruit trees seem to be entirely immune from foot rot.

If foot rot is to the orange tree what cancer is to the human body and contagious as some contend it is our opinion that there is no stock that is entirely immune.

It is our opinion that proper draining of groves by ditching will remove some of the aggravating conditions that precipitate foot rot.

For the last ten months we have been predicting more foot rot than was ever known before unless the orange growers properly drained their groves by ditching.

The seepage of the water near the surface for weeks and months at a time will necessarily disease the roots in some form.

As to whether we were right in our surmises in regard to the seepage precipitating foot rot it seems that the many complaints that the growers are now making in regard to their groves being infected with foot rot justifies us in our theory.

Some advocate spraying others advocate to treat the soil with some chemical with the fertilizer. But it is our judgement that the grove should be properly ditched first and then the other treatment afterwards.

For those growers who have ditched their groves in time now have flourishing groves in the pink of condition.

Again, as before stated, if foot rot is contagious and is to the orange tree what cancer is to the human body, it is our cranky opinion that when the sap of the orange tree becomes thoroughly inoculated with the germs of foot rot why then there is no known remedy for it. W. R. VARN.

Lily, Fla., 9 25, 1906.

City Election.

The City Election last Monday passed off quietly only 65 votes were polled.

The changes in officials are City Treasurer O. H. Parker retiring and Geo. R. Parker taking his place, and City Clerk R. B. Campbell retiring and Frank Horton taking his place, L. Y. Bryan Tax Assessor and one councilman, Zeb Parker retiring and C. H. Kirkpatrick taking his place.

Mayor Platt, Tax Collector Ed. Greene and Councilmen R. E. Whidden and Perry C. Brown were re-elected.

The officials were sworn in on Tuesday and are now in charge of the City and all is well.